



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 6 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
6 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

The campaign officially opens today for the 22 October lower house election. A total of 1,240 candidates are running, an average of about nine per seat. So far, no clear-cut political divisions have come to light among the candidates. The contests will probably be influenced more by local factors than by national issues.

2. France

Tension between angry farmers and the government remains high.

Protesting increased feed prices and decreased cattle prices, these small livestock farmers are caught between the hammer of De Gaulle's EEC-based pricing policy and the anvil of their inherent farming inefficiency.

De Gaulle may offer a few minor concessions. He is unlikely, however, to make any real changes in agricultural policy.

The government faces a censure motion next Tuesday over economic and social policies. The farmers' revolt may cause some defections from the Gaullist ranks, but probably not enough to carry the motion.

3. Peru

The Peruvians are trying to cover their own tracks with false charges that Chile has bought missiles and other military hardware from the Soviet Union. Chile has not. Peru is contracting to buy supersonic fighter-bombers and tanks from France.

4. Brazil

The Brazilians too are negotiating for French military jets. Rio hopes to get a package deal that would include 20 fighters and an aircraft factory on long-term credit. If the US F-5s which Brazil has tried to purchase are not forthcoming, the deal may well go through.

5. Greece

Constantine showed "distaste and regret" when he told Ambassador Talbot on Wednesday that the military junta has decided to stay in power for four years. The King intends to work to get this decision revised downward. We doubt he will have much luck.

The junta of late has chosen to ignore the King's suggestions. It is possible that a showdown between the King and the regime is shaping up. Constantine, however, is not likely to bring it on without a better power base than he seems to have now. In the end, we suspect the King will have no choice but to learn to live with the junta.

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6. Communist China

There are more signs of an upcoming Chinese nuclear test.

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only*

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Preparations for Observance of the Soviet Fiftieth Anniversary: Now that the celebrations of Chinese National Day are over, Hanoi is beginning to beat the drums in preparation for even larger celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Soviet Revolution next month. Having already adopted resolutions on the anniversary, published articles about it in the party journal, and sent delegations to Moscow for preliminary ceremonies, Hanoi is now commencing its propaganda outpouring for the festivities. A broadcast on 5 October carried instructions to all the armed forces in North Vietnam on the celebration of the 50th anniversary. The instructions declared that the key point of the celebration was the promotion of the study of Marxism-Leninism among all party members. All army units are to hold discussions, talks, and book and newspaper readings, and to launch short-term "emulation drives" with the aim of defeating the US aggressors.

Hanoi's commemoration of the Soviet anniversary probably will be quite extensive and as a result will cause a good deal of irritation in Peking. Perhaps to forestall Peking's anger, Hanoi's celebration of Chinese National Day this year was much more elaborate than in previous years. Hanoi included two Politburo members in its delegation to the festivities in Peking; last year no delegation was sent.

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The Educational System Carries On: Another of Hanoi's efforts to demonstrate that the bombings, while causing serious damage, have not destroyed the ability

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of the state to carry on was clearly evident in a statement on 4 October by Hanoi's Education Ministry. After recounting a long list of alleged US bombing crimes directed against schools and other educational institutions, the statement declared that despite "these heavy obstacles" the North Vietnamese educational service "is developing with every passing day." To support this assertion, the ministry claimed that in the present school year (1967-68) the number of pupils attending primary and secondary school has risen to over 3.6 million--an increase of 10 percent over last year. This number, when added to the number of pupils in other schools, the statement alleged, brings to 5.6 million the number of people attending classes, or about one out of every four people in North Vietnam.

While our information on the actual number of pupils enrolled in the country is sketchy, we believe the above figures are highly exaggerated and probably include a large number of those enrolled part-time. Hanoi's own statistics for enrollment of primary and secondary pupils in 1965-66 was 2.3 million. Since that time, the regime has closed or dismantled many of its educational institutions and evacuated the pupils to the countryside.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE WAR

A Hanoi broadcast on 4 October in English to American servicemen in South Vietnam has used some critical remarks on the war made at a recent Democratic gathering in California in an attempt to demonstrate that "Johnson's war in Vietnam is the most unpopular in US history and is being opposed by increasing numbers of his party members."

The article recounted that on 1 October "33,000 Democrats" of California gathered at Long Beach and adopted a resolution expressing disagreement with "Johnson's policy in Vietnam." The broadcast noted that the resolution demands "unconditional end to the US bombing of North Vietnam, and withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam." Additionally, the broadcast stated that the Democrats declared they would support any candidate for the 1968 presidential election who approves of an end to the US war in Vietnam, and declared their opposition to President Johnson's candidacy. The broadcast closed with the question, "Is there any valid reason for American GI's like you to continue fighting this war?"

On 2 October a Hanoi broadcast described the actions of "people in many countries" who are demanding an end to the "US aggressive war" in Vietnam. The broadcast notes that some 320 prominent Americans, including scientist Linus Pauling and poets Robert Lowell and Allen Ginsberg, recently signed a statement condemning "Johnson's war" and supporting "the antidraft movement among the American youth." The broadcast also states that the Women's Strike for Peace has decided to launch "a drive of broad mass mobilization" to demand that the US Government stop the war and bring US troops home.

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